

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A first storage component connected to at least one second storage component via a network, said first storage component comprising:

a first recording unit that records at least one content;

a first control unit associated with ~~the~~ said first recording unit, ~~the~~ said first control unit generating first data ~~registering~~ representing storage capacity in use by each user of ~~the associated~~ said first recording unit;

a management table that has a first management item and a second management item, said management table of said first storage component being separate from a corresponding management table of said second storage component,

said first management item comprising i) a first data generated by said first control unit regarding the storage capacity in use by each user of said first recording unit, and ii) a second data generated by a second control unit of said second storage component regarding storage capacity in use by each user of a second recording unit of said second storage component, wherein the first and second storage components are

physically independent storage devices that are connected via the network,

said second management item for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in said first and second recording units of said first and second storage components; and

~~an interface to the second storage component for receiving said second data from said second storage component and registering said received second data in said management table of said first storage component generated by a control unit of the second storage component and registering storage capacity in use by each user of a recording unit of the second storage component, and~~

~~a management table that has a first management item and a second management item,~~

~~the first management item comprising~~

~~i) the first data generated by said control unit registering the storage capacity in use by each user of the recording unit of the first storage component, and~~

~~ii) the second data generated by the control unit of the second storage component registering storage capacity in use by each user of the recording unit of the second storage component, and~~

~~the second management item for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in the recording units of the first and second storage components,~~

wherein, said first control unit restricts the storage capacity in use by the users based on ~~the~~ said management table of said first storage component so that the storage capacity of ~~the~~ said first and second recording units ~~unit~~ used by a user does not exceed the total storage capacity that the user is allowed to use as registered by said second management item.

2. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said first control unit acquires data of said management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component independently from said second storage component ~~other storage components,~~ and updates the data of said management table of said first storage component based on the acquired data.

3. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 2,

wherein when a use status of said first recording unit of ~~the own~~ said first storage component is changed in accordance with recording or deletion of contents, said first control unit updates data of ~~the own~~ said first storage component among data

of said first management item in said management table of ~~the own~~  
said first storage component.

4. (currently amended) The first storage component as  
claimed in claim 3,

wherein said first control unit

i) transmits, at least one of periodically and at  
predetermined timing, packets describing the data of said first  
management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first  
storage component to other storage components via said network,  
and

ii) updates, in accordance with data of said first  
management item in said management table of ~~another~~ said second  
storage component that is described in packets received from ~~the~~  
~~other~~ said second storage component via said network, data of ~~the~~  
~~other~~ said second storage component among the data of said first  
management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first  
storage component.

5. (currently amended) The first storage component as  
claimed in claim 4,

wherein said first control unit transmits, among the  
data of the first management item in said management table of ~~the~~  
~~own~~ said first storage component, packets describing only the

data of ~~the own~~ said first storage component, to the other storage components via said network.

6. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 4, wherein said first control unit transmits, among the data of said first management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component, packets describing data of all the storage components registered in the first management item, to the other storage components via said network.

7. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 4,

wherein when the packets describing the data of said first management item in said management table of ~~another~~ said second storage component are not received from ~~another~~ said second storage component for a predetermined period of time, said first control unit transmits packets for turning ON a power of ~~another~~ said second storage component thereto via said network.

8. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 7,

wherein when the packets describing the data of the first management item in the management table of ~~another~~ said second storage component are not received from ~~another~~ said

second storage component for a predetermined period of time after said first control unit transmits the packets for turning ON the power of ~~another~~ said second storage component thereto via said network, the first control unit deletes the data of ~~another~~ said second storage component from said first management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component.

9. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 2,

wherein when at least one of registration, modification and deletion of the total storage capacity a user is allowed to use is performed, said first control unit updates data of the user among data of said second management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component.

10. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 9,

wherein when at least one of registration and modification of the total storage capacity a user is allowed to use is performed at ~~the own~~ said first storage component, said first control unit makes the user select the total storage capacity the user is allowed to use within an extent not exceeding a recommended default value.

11. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 9,

wherein said first control unit does not allocate the total storage capacity in all said recording unit of said plurality of storage components as the total storage capacity each user is allowed to use so that a part of the total storage capacity in all said recording unit remains unoccupied.

12. (currently amended) The first storage component as claimed in claim 9,

wherein said first control unit

i) transmits, at least one of periodically and at predetermined timing, packets describing the data of said second management item in said management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component to the other storage components via said network, and

ii) updates, in accordance with data of said second management item in said management table of ~~another~~ said second storage component that is described in the packets received from ~~the other~~ said second storage component via said network, data of a user whose total usable storage capacity is registered, modified, or deleted in ~~the other~~ said second storage component among the data of the second management item in the management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component.

13. (previously presented) The first storage component as claimed in claim 1,

wherein said management table is divided to a first management table having said first management item and a second management table having said second management item.

14. (currently amended) A storage system, comprising:  
~~having~~ a plurality of storage components interconnected via a network,

each storage component connecting to the network and being a storage device physically independent from every other storage component,

each storage component comprising ~~[[:]]~~ a recording unit that records at least one content, an associated control unit, and a management table that , wherein,

a first storage component, of said plural storage components, includes a first recording unit that records the at least one content, a first control unit associated with said first recording unit, said first control unit generating first data representing storage capacity in user by each user of said first recording unit, and a first management table,

a second storage component, of said plural storage components, includes a second recording unit that records the at least one content, a second control unit associated with said second recording unit, said second control unit generating first



data representing storage capacity in user by each user of said second recording unit, and a second management table,

said first management table of said first storage component is separate from said second management table of said second storage component,

each of said first and second management tables respectively has a first management item and a second management item,

said first management item of said first storage component comprising i) a first data generated by said first control unit regarding the storage capacity in use by each user of said first recording unit, and ii) a second data generated by said second control unit of said second storage component regarding storage capacity in use by each user of said second recording unit of said second storage component,

said second management item of said first storage component for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in said first and second recording units of said first and second storage components,

said first control unit restricts the storage capacity in use by the users based on said first management table of said first storage component so that the storage capacity of said first and second recording units used by a user does not exceed the total storage capacity that the user is allowed to use as registered by said second management item

~~for managing, for each user, storage capacity in use by users in each of the recording unit of the plurality of storage components, and a second management item for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in all the recording unit of the plurality of storage components, and~~

~~a control unit that restricts the storage capacity in use by the users based on the management table so that the storage capacity of the recording unit used by a user does not exceed the total storage capacity that the user is allowed to use, wherein,~~

~~the first management item of each storage unit comprises~~

~~i) first data generated by said control unit of said each storage unit, the first data item registering the storage capacity in use by each user of the recording unit of said each storage component, and~~

~~ii) second data generated respectively by the control unit of each other storage component registering storage capacity in use by each user of the recording unit of said each other storage component.~~

15. (currently amended) The storage system as claimed in claim 14,

wherein said first control unit acquires data of said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component independently from the other storage components, and updates the data of said first management table based on the acquired data.

16. (currently amended) The storage system as claimed in claim 15,

wherein when a use status of said first recording unit of ~~the own~~ said first storage component is changed in accordance with recording or deletion of contents, said first control unit updates data of ~~the own~~ said first storage component among data of said first management item in said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component.

17. (currently amended) The storage system as claimed in claim 16,

wherein said first control unit

i) transmits, at least one of periodically and at predetermined timing, packets describing the data of said first management item in said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component to the other storage components via said network, and

ii) updates, in accordance with data of said first management item in said second management table of ~~another~~ said second storage component that is described in packets received

from ~~the other~~ said second storage component via said network, data of ~~the other~~ said second storage component among the data of said first management item in said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component.

18. (currently amended) The storage system as claimed in claim 17,

wherein said first control unit transmits, among the data of the first management item in said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component, packets describing only the data of ~~the own~~ said first storage component, to the other storage components via said network.

19. (currently amended) The storage system as claimed in claim 17,

wherein said first control unit transmits, among the data of said first management item in said first management table of ~~the own~~ said first storage component, packets describing data of all the storage components registered in the first management item, to the other storage components via said network.

20. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium recording thereon a computer program to be executed by a first storage component being connected to at least a second

~~plurality of storage component components~~ via a network and recording at least one content, comprising:

means for creating a management table having a first management item and a second management item, wherein each storage component has a separate management table, and each storage component is a physically independent storage device,

said first management item comprising i) a first data generated by said first storage component regarding the storage capacity in use by each user of said first storage component, and ii) a second data generated by said second storage component regarding storage capacity in use by each user of said second storage component,

said second management item for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in said first and second storage components; and

~~for managing, for each user, storage capacity in use by users in each storage component, and a second management item for managing, for each user, total storage capacity that each user is allowed to use in all storage components; and~~

means for restricting the storage capacity in use by the users based on said management table of said first storage component so that the storage capacity of said first and second storage components used by a user does not exceed the total storage capacity that the user is allowed to use, ~~wherein,~~

~~the first management item of each storage unit~~  
comprises

~~i) first data generated by said control unit of said~~  
~~each storage unit, the first data item registering the storage~~  
~~capacity in use by each user of the recording unit of said each~~  
~~storage component, and~~

~~ii) second data generated respectively by the control~~  
~~unit of each other storage component registering storage capacity~~  
~~in use by each user of the recording unit of said each other~~  
~~storage component.~~